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#7

SOUTA!
SOUTA..?
SOUTA'S HEAD-PHONES
THIS LOOKS LIKE IT WAS LEFT ON PUR-POSE.
tsk
..?
SFX CREAK
SFX RUSTLE

SOUTA!!
SOUTA! ARE YOU OKAY?!
...WHY DID YOU COME...

THIS IS THEIR FINAL RESORT.
SO WHAT?
SFX CLANG
THIS IS A TRAP TO LURE YOU.
I KNOW IT'S A TRAP.
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS.
SFX SLAM
TAKERU...
GET HIM!!
YOU'VE COME, SEN-GOKU!!
...!!

SFX: SLAM
HEY!! DON'T TOUCH SOUTA!!
!!
DAMN.
SFX: FALL
SOUTA.
ARGH ...!!
Sengoku-san... I can't reach him.
He said to leave it to him, but I wonder what happened.

KANDA
OTOWA,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
!!
HUH?
...I SEE,
SENGOKU WENT TO FIND OUT WHO WAS BEHIND THAT INCIDENT
SHALL I HELP YOU FIND HIM?
NO I COULDN'T ASK THAT
THIS IS THE FIRST DORM'S PROBLEM
DON'T BE SHY, WE'RE FRIENDS.

SFX CRASH
HMM?
IT'S NOISY OVER THERE
KANDA..!!
SFX CREAK
!?

HONGOU-KUN...!!
...SENGOKU-SAN...
WE STOPPED SENGOKU, WHO WAS HURTING HONGOU.
What is going on...!?
WHY...

HONGOU WAS THE ONE BEHIND THE WHOLE INCIDENT... SENGOKU COULDN'T FORGIVE HIS BETRAYAL
SENGOKU WAS WHAT!?
NO WAY... THAT'S A LIE
IT'S TRUE
...
SENGOKU-SAN, IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT BY "LEAVE IT TO ME"?

HOW CRUEL.
FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE COMRADES
HURRY, LET'S BRING HONGOU TO THE CLINIC
Sen-goku-san..
Why... are you looking at me like that?!

I want to think that it's a mistake,
IT'S LIKE THEM TO CONDEMN THE TRAITOR, YOU KNOW?
IT'S SAD, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S AS EXPECTED OF THE SHINSENGUMI.
that Sengoku-san did something like this.
SENGOKU AND HONGOU ARE SAID TO HAVE HAD A FIGHT, AND ARE HOSPITALIZED.
GOKOKUJI IS IN THE REFLECTION ROOM.
KASUGA-SAN AND TSUBAKIYAMA-SAN ARE UNDER HOUSE ARREST
Everyone's been separated.
...
OTOW, ARE YOU OKAY?

KANDA.
IN FACT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE SECOND DORM RIGHT NOW?
I'M ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE
COME.

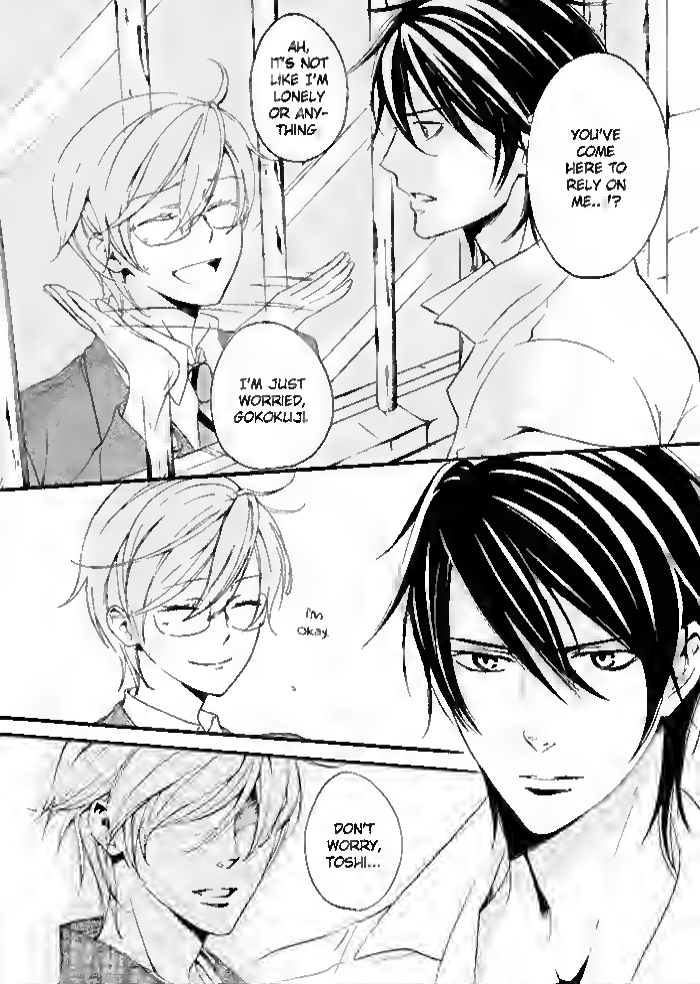
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE ALSO THE SECOND DORM'S COMRADE.
YOUR COMRADES ARE NOT JUST THOSE GUYS
Comrades...

I've only been with them a while, but I can't leave them.
I wonder why.
THANKS, KANDA.
BUT I CAN'T GO WITH YOU.
Tsk
AH-AH, I GUESS THINGS WON'T WORK THAT EASILY...
BUT I GUESS IT'S MORE FUN THIS WAY.
And also.. I feel like this is not the time to be depending on Kanda.

SFX RUSTLE
Here we go.
Yeah, him...
with him...

SFX HIT
SHH.
Otowa!!
YO! HOW ARE YOU?
OTOWA!
IF YOU'RE FOUND, YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE

KASUGA-SENPAI AND TSUBAKIYAMA-SENPAI HAVE BEEN PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST
THE TRUTH IS...
SENGOKU-SAN AND HONGOU-KUN HAD A FIGHT AND ARE NOW HOSPITALIZED
I CAME TO TELL YOU BEFORE EVERYONE DISAPPEARED
HEY... YOU KNOW... THAT...
I WANT TO... RELY ON YOU...


AH, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M LONELY OR ANY-THING
YOU'VE COME HERE TO RELY ON ME..!?
I'M JUST WORRIED, GOKOKUJI.
I'm okay.
DON'T WORRY, TOSHI...

I'M OKAY.
OTOWA ...
CALM DOWN AND TELL ME ABOUT EACH INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED

TAKERU-SAN CAME BACK TO THIS ACADEMY BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT SOUTA IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THEN WHO WOULD ...?
NO MATTER HOW CRAZY WHAT SOUTA DID WAS, I DON'T THINK TAKERU-SAN WOULD HAVE DONE THAT TO HIM.
I THINK SO, TOO.
I SEE ...
I WAS HEADING THERE WITH KANDA, BUT—
WHO BROUGHT YOU TO THE INCIDENT SITE?
KANDA, EH.

YEAH...
THEY'RE ALL FROM THE SECOND DORM...
THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE ATHLETIC CLUB INCIDENT WERE... TAKEBASHI AND OGAWA.
I GUESS IT WAS THE SECOND DORM'S SATSUMA'S PLAN AFTER ALL?
AAH...
SFX. CHUCKLE
?
...
YOU SHOULDN'T ACCUSE PEOPLE WITHOUT PROOF, OTOWA.

Heh
THAT'S TRUE
EVEN THOUGH THE ONE WHO ALWAYS TOLD ME NOT TO TRUST SATSUMA WAS YOU
SFX: KNOCK
THANKS TO ME?
IT SEEMS LIKE, THANKS TO YOU, I'VE CALMED DOWN
THAT YOU CAME TODAY REALLY SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING KONDOU-SAN WOULD DO

OTOWA...
I'LL LOOK FOR PROOF.
SFX: BUMP
コン ッ
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, I'LL BE HERE WAITING.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FREE TO MOVE AROUND.
I NEED TO CONFIRM IF IT WAS A TRAP.

YEAH...
I BELIEVE IN YOU.
THANKS.
I want to save Gokokuji, Kasuga-senpai and Tsubakiyama-senpai.
THEN I'M GOING.
Sengoku-san, if I'm going to do this, Hongou-san will ...

THEN I'M GOING, TOSHI
KONDOU-SAN SMILED LIKE THAT, TOO.
SFX GRIP
EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO PROTECT HIM, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
OTOWA
SFX SIGH
BE SAFE.

...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OTOWA...
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU WOKE UP

I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT EVERY-THING
I'LL SAVE EVERYONE.
LET'S GO TO THE SPORTS FESTIVAL TO-GETHER
SO PLEASE, TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW

Shoujo Sense
THIS
...TAKE THIS.
THIS IS...?
...MY PHONE'S CALL LOG AND RECORDINGS OF THOSE CALLS...
IT'S BEEN DELETED ON MY PHONE BUT I KEPT A BACK-UP JUST IN CASE
DELETED, BY WHO?
...FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF

KUDAN-SAN.
OTOWA SUBARU FROM THE FIRST DORM WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU.
LET HIM IN.

SFX: CREAK
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH ME?
ABOUT THAT,
I THINK THE SECOND DORM WAS BEHIND EVERYTHING.
EVERYONE IN THE SHINSENGUMI - EXCEPT FOR YOU, THEIR CAPTAIN - SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN DOWN. DOESN'T THIS AFFECT YOUR SPORTS' FESTIVAL?
I HATE COWARDLY THINGS LIKE THAT.
TO FIGHT FAIR AND SQUARE IS OUR MOTTO.
THANK YOU.
SFX: CLINK

ARE YOU MOCKING MY COMRADES!?
YOU MAY FEEL THAT WAY, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST?
IMPOS-SIBLE
I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU WANT TO BELIEVE IN THEM, BUT... I HAVE PROOF
I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO THIS
HERE,

CHANNELING KONDOU, I PREPARED MY RESOLVE BEFORE COMING HERE.
SO PLEASE, HAVE SOME RESOLVE TOO, AND LISTEN TO THIS.
NO, PLEASE LISTEN TO IT.
I DON'T NEED TO.
OH... THEN,
LET US LISTEN TO IT.
AND THEN I WILL DECIDE ON THE LEGITIMACY OF YOUR PROOF, AFTER CONSIDERING IT...
THIS WILL BE EXACTLY LIKE A CLASS TRIAL.